

Crisis Hotline Counselor for Boystown and eventually became an Omaha Police Department School Liaison, and Gang Prevention and Intervention Specialist where he still works today. Today Beto also develops and implements outreach programs for at-risk youth as a Youth Counselor for the South Omaha Boys and Girls Club. Through all these efforts, Alberto Gonzales has touched and changed the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of youth in the Hispanic community.

Mr. Gonzales' outstanding accomplishments have earned him several prestigious awards including the Friedman Award for Excellence in Youth Mentoring, Nebraska Hispanic Man of the Year Award, Induction into the Omaha South High School Alumni Hall of Fame, and many others. Alberto has taught us all that how you start out in life is not as important as how you finish. He has taught us we can never give up on the youth in our community, no matter the darkness of their current situation or their past.

Alberto gives credit to God, his mother who always prayed for him, his mentor Sister Joyce, and many of the educators and professionals who encouraged him along the way. He believes that showing unconditional positive regard and spending quality time with at-risk children can make a positive difference. He may not save every kid he encounters, but he believes in a philosophy that says, "If you plant a seed now, someone else might water and grow it later."

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERIDEN RECORD-JOURNAL

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Meriden Record-Journal on the 150th Anniversary of its inaugural publication. This paper has been a staple of the Meriden community for the past century and a half, and its leaders have played a crucial role in informing the town.

The Record-Journal traces its history to The Weekly Visitor newspaper first published in 1867. In 1892, E.E. Smith, along with Thomas Warnock, acquired the paper and began a family legacy of running the local publication for four generations. Smith's son, Wayne, succeeded his father as publisher, and following Wayne's death in 1966, his stepson Carter White served as publisher until his retirement in 1988. What's more, various members of the family worked as writers, editors, and managers for the paper, contributing to the paper's success.

Though the Record-Journal has a long history in Meriden, its leaders have not been afraid to innovate and develop new practices to modernize the publication. RJ Media Group, which now publishes the paper, has been a leader in online, social media, and multimedia news in Connecticut. In fact, Editor & Publisher trade magazine named the Record-Journal as one of the "10 Newspapers That Do It Right" in March 2016, recognizing the hard work of the publication's leadership to keep the paper relevant for today's readers.

Mr. Speaker, the Meriden Record-Journal has been an important community institution

for a century and a half, connecting and informing the town of Meriden. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor it, and all the leaders who have ensured its success here today.

HONORING CHERYL JENNINGS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of longtime Bay Area anchor and reporter Cheryl Jennings on the occasion of her recognition by the International Association of Sufism with its Humanitarian Award on September 22, 2017. Ms. Jennings has dedicated her entire career to spreading humanity throughout the Bay Area and across the world, and it is fitting for her to receive this honor.

Born in Fort Benning, Georgia, to an Army family, Ms. Jennings lived in many places as a child around the U.S. and the world. This spurred in her a lifelong interest in travel and contributed to the development of her strong will, compassion, and strength. Ms. Jennings' successful career in broadcasting includes many achievements, including nine Emmy awards, seven "Gracie" awards from the Alliance of Women in Media, and many other honors and citations.

Her work at ABC 7/KGO has included frightening and memorable episodes. During the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, for example, she was the sole reporter in the studio, relaying critical information to a very scared public for hours. For this coverage, Ms. Jennings and her news team were awarded two of the highest broadcasting awards in the nation: the George Foster Peabody Award and the Radio-Television News Directors Association's Edward R. Murrow award.

In addition to her professional achievements, Ms. Jennings has volunteered her time to support numerous local charities and organizations over the years. For the past 15 years, she has been a stalwart supporter of Roots for Peace and has traveled around the world promoting landmine removal for countless families and communities. From Camp Okizu for children with cancer, to Performing Stars of Marin, to Marin Abused Women's Services, countless individuals and communities have been touched by her generosity and heart.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for Cheryl Jennings' humanitarian contributions, and in sending her best wishes for many more years of exceptional service.

HONORING HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Halifax Community College located in my congressional district in Halifax County, North Carolina in the Town of Weldon as the

institution celebrates its 50th Founders' Day and installs its new president, Dr. Michael Elam. Since its inception 50 years ago, Halifax Community College has served as a cornerstone of the Roanoke Valley region and has been a source of pride for the community.

What would eventually become Halifax Community College was first called Halifax County Technical Institute and was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on September 7, 1967. Originally located on US Highway 301 in Halifax, the school, led by its first president Dr. Phillip W. Taylor, first opened its doors to students in February 1968. The school remained in its original location until 1977 when it relocated to its present location on NC Highway 158 in the Town of Weldon.

Mr. Speaker, since its humble beginnings half a century ago, Halifax Community College has become known statewide for its innovative facilities and educational excellence in the Roanoke Valley. The institution serves more than 7,000 students each year and offers more than 40 academic programs that lead to certificates, diplomas and associate degrees. Halifax Community College offers basic literacy skills, workforce and human resources development, and continuing education programs. It is also home to the renowned 1,500-seat multipurpose theater called The Centre.

The staff of Halifax Community College work in earnest each day to achieve the school's mission "to meet the diverse needs of [the] community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace."

In recognition of its hard work and achievements, Halifax Community College has been the recipient of many prestigious awards including the 2015 Southern Region Equity Award by the Association of Community College Trustees; 2016 Advancing Diversity Award by the American Association of Community Colleges; 2016 Rural Community College Alliance Innovator Award; and 2017 American Association of Community Colleges Community College Safety, Planning, and Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, Halifax Community College is a vibrant, student-oriented institution that continues to embrace student learning and success as its top priorities. Under the visionary leadership of past presidents Dr. Phillip W. Taylor (1967–1988), Dr. Elton L. Newbern Jr. (1988–1998), Dr. Theodore H. Gasper Jr. (1998–2006), and Dr. Ervin V. Griffin Sr. (2006–2017), Halifax Community College has prospered and has transformed educational opportunities and outcomes for the Roanoke Valley.

I have no doubt that Halifax Community College's new president, Dr. Michael Elam, will build on the work of those who came before him and will ably and skillfully lead the institution into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the staff and students of Halifax Community College, past and present, as they celebrate 50 years of excellence in education. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, I wish Halifax Community College great success for the next 50 years and beyond.